



# West Exmoor Federation

*'Educating with love, for life in all its fullness'*

*Spring Term 2021 – Newsletter 5 – 31st March 2022*



## Quick Reminders

School Dinners for children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) should be paid for in advance or on the day they are taken at the latest.

### Visit Payments now due:

18th March - Gangsta Granny KS2 Visit payment due

28th March - Final St Georges House payment due

28th March - 2nd Lee Valley payment due

1st April - Mamma Mia Yr5/6 Visit payment due

## Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

As the Spring Term draws to a close, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support. Despite the on-going impact of covid, I have been incredibly proud of our children this term; their resilience and stamina for learning continues to grow and it has been wonderful to spend time in each class talking to our children about their learning and seeing their genuine passion for all aspects of the curriculum. We have been visited a couple of times this term by our Education Advisor from the Local Authority and they too have been very impressed by the learning that our children have been undertaking. This year, we have gone about teaching the curriculum in a slightly different way, with subjects such as science, DT, history and geography being blocked. Rather than our children having a short lesson of each during the course of a week, they are now focusing just on one subject for a sustained period of time. This has really enabled our children to efficiently explore an aspect of the curriculum in depth, and feedback from our children is that they definitely prefer this approach.

### EASTER SERVICES

Thank you so much to everyone who was able to join our children as they celebrated Easter at Christ Church and St Mary's yesterday. How lovely it was to see all of our children enjoying the occasion and participating so whole-heartedly through a wonderful array of song, poetry, drama and prayer. It was lovely to come together and enjoy a real sense of 'normal' as the spring term draws to a close.

### PINKERY RESIDENTIAL - YEAR 3&4

What a genuine pleasure it was to join both our Lynton and Parracombe/Kentisbury Year 3 & 4 children on their residential trips to the Pinkery Centre earlier this term. It was a fabulous week and so lovely to see our children really flourish as they were pushed out of their comfort zones. For many, it was the first time away from home, other than perhaps staying with a relative, and each and every one of our children coped with this admirably. I have been leading residential for many years now, but I never fail to be amazed by how the children change in such a short period of time and how their independence soars. Often it is the little big things that make the difference - choosing what combination of clothes to put on, making their own lunch and choosing the most ridiculous combination of sandwich fillings, sharing a room with their friends, going to sleep without the reassurance of a goodnight kiss from those at home but surrounded by love and support from their peers, trying out new activities, re-packing their bag at the end of their stay ... The list is endless, with each challenge or experience helping our children to grow socially and emotionally and become just that little bit more self assured and independent.

The Pinkery Centre is always a wonderful place to take the children, especially when we are able to walk in from Shallowford. It gives a real sense of how remote and isolated parts of Exmoor are and is the perfect start to a big adventure, especially with the added bonus of a picnic lunch at Pinkery Pond and a trip through the infamous Pinkery tunnel! Lynton enjoyed the most glorious weather as we walked in on Monday - the views from Woodbarrow were just

*Curiosity ~ Achievement ~ Respect ~ Inspiration ~ Support*

stunning. Parracombe and Kentisbury enjoyed a more familiar day on Wednesday with mist and drizzle, but with the added delight of a close encounter with a herd of Exmoor ponies. Once at the centre, each and every one of our children engaged with great enthusiasm and determination as they tried their hand at archery, low-ropes, problem solving, stream-dipping and grass sledging. I was extremely proud to see our CARIS values being exemplified by all of our children throughout the week; their curiosity to seek out new experiences; their ability to persevere and achieve things that they initially thought were beyond them; the respect that they showed to those around them and their environment; the inspiration that they gained from their surroundings, as well as inspiring and being inspired by their peers; and, most importantly, the incredible support that they gave to one another during their time away. The team at the Pinkery Centre were extremely complimentary about all of our children, noting how polite and well mannered they were at all times - they were a true credit to themselves and the federation. Thank you Year 3 & 4 - I hope that you enjoyed your time away as much as I did. Thank you also to Mr Huggins, Mrs Bowden-Berry, Mrs Gubb-Fradgely, Ms Strachan and Mrs Kelly for accompanying the children and making the trip possible.

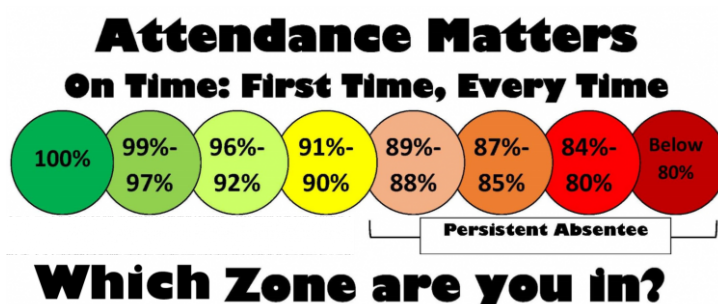


## HAND WASHING & CONTINUED COVID MEASURES

As we enter the third year of the pandemic, it is reassuring to feel a sense of normality returning, albeit that covid has far from disappeared. Reported cases of covid continue to rise within the locality and the impact of covid related absence, both for children and staff, is still being deeply felt across the federation. With this in mind, could I please remind everyone of the importance of regular hand washing and sanitising (especially when entering any of our school buildings) - good hand and respiratory hygiene will help to minimise the spread of a multitude of 'nasties', including covid. It is also important that we all remain vigilant with regards to potential covid symptoms. If your child has symptoms of a respiratory infection and a high temperature, or if they feel unwell, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature. In the event of a positive COVID-19 test result, children and staff will be asked to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, the period during which they are most infectious.

## ATTENDANCE

Thank you so much to those parents/carers who have worked so hard to ensure that their children's attendance has remained good despite the challenges presented by covid and the plethora of other 'nasties' doing the rounds. The national average for primary school attendance currently stands at 92.5%. Our Kentisbury registered children are in line with this, whereas our Lynton children have a combined attendance of 95.39% and our Parracombe children have a combined rate of 96.53% - well done! The government target is for each child to have an attendance rate of 96% or above to ensure that they have the very best educational life chances. Thank you for working with us to try and achieve this - every day at school (or every day missed) really does make a difference.



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This half term we have been thinking about our CARIS value of Respect. Our children have been thinking about what respect means to them and how they can show respect, not only to others, but also to themselves and the world within

which we live. We have been thinking about how different world religions show respect for their faith and discussing how Jesus demonstrated respect by washing the feet of his disciples. We have also been sensitively considering the war in Ukraine, with our Associate Governors across the federation being courageous advocates and organising Bake Sales to raise funds for both the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal and the ShelterBox - Emergency in Ukraine Appeal.

Finally, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable and restful Easter break. I very much look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Monday 25th April.

With Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock  
Executive Headteacher

### **Raindrops, Streams & Saplings**

It's hard to believe that Easter is nearly upon us. The time seems to be flying by and it has been wonderful to see how much we have managed to squeeze into this term.

Our thematic learning is being carefully planned to allow the children to make links through all of their learning. This term this has meant that the children have been studying plants as part of their science topic, whilst focussing on Jack and the Beanstalk in English. The children built on their previous learning of narrative, and created their very own version of Jack and the Beanstalk, whilst becoming increasingly familiar with this as another example of a Fairy tale. The children have been fully immersed in the exploration of plants, creating their own science experiment by planting and growing seeds in bags and exploring what conditions they grow in best. They have also enjoyed revisiting their previous learning on line drawing, colour and collage, when creating their own art based on beautiful Daffodils.

Year 1 at Kentisbury have enjoyed their turn at Forest School and continued this wonderful learning outside, as they have worked with Mrs Watts, developing the garden patch at Kentisbury. They even enjoyed a visit to Arlington Court, in the sunshine, where they put their learning into practice by spotting examples of common plants and trees. Raindrops have also thoroughly enjoyed observing their very own caterpillars and their life cycles.

This week, it has been wonderful seeing various 'normal' events begin to resurface; Easter services, Easter egg hunts and Bake sales. We are continuously in awe of the children and their resilience to the ongoing situations.

Many thanks to those who continue to support the children with regular reading and home learning at home, including Mathletics and Literacy Planet. The difference that this makes is invaluable.

We wish you all a wonderful, safe and enjoyable Easter break,  
Your KS1/EYFS team.

### **Young Buds, Rivers and Oaks**

What a half term this has been! Taking years 3 & 4 to Pinkery was an amazing and enriching experience both for the staff and children as it allowed us to view the children in a new light. Forcing children outside of their comfort zones and pushing their limits really exposes their inner strengths, most of which they didn't know they possessed! The adults even managed to get a little sleep too!

Immediately after this week, we went straight into assessment week and again the children showed us what they can do! We were impressed with how they performed but we were more blown away by their stamina and the effort they put in! Especially after such a busy week the week before.

Lastly this week, we have had our Easter services with plenty of singing, poetry and prayers to wow parents with. Even for Key Stage Two children who have done these sorts of services before, standing up and talking is never easy, but they did a fantastic job.

We're immensely proud of the children in our cohorts for their work over the past few weeks and have lots planned next week for our last week of term. I think they will appreciate just being back to normal for a week!

Have a lovely Easter and thank you for all the support this term!

## Oceans and Forests

What a fantastic half term this has been. Year 5&6 have worked their socks off, both inside and outside of the classroom! Well done to those who took part in the netball championships. You worked incredibly hard and made yourselves (and us!) very proud. In maths, we have been completing fractions, percentages and decimals. In English, we have worked hard on completing our spooky Alma narratives - the children certainly tuned into their mysterious sides and produced some fabulous work! The last few weeks have seen us getting engrossed in some amazing science, design technology and computing work

We are looking forward to the residential next week at St George's House and cannot wait to see how the children grow socially and emotionally during the course of the week. Have a fabulous Easter. We look forward to seeing you all after a restful break.

## Sports News

### Sports for Champions Athlete Visit - 17th May 2022

Children will be coming home with a sponsorship leaflet this week for our upcoming visit from GB athlete Jaydon Paddock. He will deliver inspirational talks and then children will take part in a sponsored fitness session with Jaydon. This is an incredible opportunity for children to hear from a professional athlete, he will talk of his experiences and the challenges he has overcome to get to where he is now. By sponsoring your child's fitness session you will be supporting our GB athletes and raising money for your school. Please ensure your sponsorship money and forms are returned to school by **Friday 6th May** at the latest.

Children will also receive rewards for their fundraising efforts as follows:

Between £5 -£14.99 - signed A6 Postcard

Between £15 & £34.99 Signed A4 Poster

£35.00 + Personalised Photograph

Donations can also be made online via our Crowdfunding pages :

Lynton: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/lynton>

Kentisbury & Parracombe: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/kentisburyparracombe>



Please feel free to share the crowdfunding link on your social media pages. However, don't forget to ask friends and relatives to let you know if they have donated online so you can add this to the form (with a note to say it was online) so it can be counted towards their rewards.

## NORTH DEVON SCHOOLS SHOW JUMPING

Many congratulations to the Federation Show Jumping team who competed in their first event of the season last month. The children got off to a fabulous start with their jumping and were placed 3rd as a team, with over 20 teams taking part. Well done to everyone who took part.

## Admin News

### HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD (HAF) PROGRAMME

If your child is eligible for benefits related free school meals, they can access a range of HAF activities during the Easter holiday, all of which are free of charge and include the provision of a healthy, hot meal. Other children may also be eligible, although priority is given to those in receipt of FSM (and their friends, if this will encourage them to attend). Other eligible children include:

- children assessed by the local authority as being in need, at risk or vulnerable (for example, children on a Child Protection Plan, Children in Need or on an Early Help plan);



- young carers
- looked-after children or previously looked after children;
- children with an EHC (education, health and care) plan;
- children who have low attendance rates at school or who are at risk of exclusion;
- children living in areas of high deprivation or from low-income households who are not in receipt of free school meals.

For further information, please visit the [DCC Information for Parents](#) website page.

### **CHEAPER BROADBAND AND PHONE PACKAGES FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES**

The Department for Education (DfE) is working with Ofcom to raise awareness of social tariffs for eligible households who might be struggling to afford their broadband or phone services, to help support learning at home. For further information, please visit the [ofcom website](#).

### **Kitchen News**

#### **NEW MENU**

We have sent home electronic copies of the new menu for the Summer term. If you have not received one, you have any questions or would like to see our allergy menu for specific dietary requirements, please speak to your school office. Copies of the menu can also be found on the federation website. We have also sent home a letter regarding an unavoidable price increase in the meals to £2.35 for Key Stage Two Children. We thank you for your understanding in this matter.

### **Governor Update**

The Governing Board continues to monitor the work and effectiveness of the three Federation schools, albeit sometimes remotely, as we remain aware that the Covid-19 virus is still around. However, in some instances, and in full consultation with senior staff, we can still make some (safe) visits.

Earlier this term we visited all three schools to review Religious Education and the impact that our CARIS values have upon the development of our children. Later this week two Governors are visiting Parracombe and Lynton to review Science and Technology lessons, and to talk to children about all the new equipment they have access to in order to progress their learning. Next week will see the, termly, Full Governing Board meeting take place where a full review of the Federation so far this year will take place.

Following the recent resignation of a parent Governor (due to extended work commitments) we are pleased to announce that a new parent has come forward to fill the vacancy. This new member is Mrs. Alice Dorman who has children in Kentisbury and Little Berries, and it is a pleasure to have representation on the Board from that part of the Federation. We wish her well in her new post.

Jan Stokes.

Chair of WEF Governing Board.

### **Lynton PTFA**

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Lynton PTFA and explain what we do. Firstly, I am Charlotte Smallman, the Chair of Lynton's PTFA and I am joined by a fantastic group of Teachers and Parents. We meet up every 4-8 weeks and each meeting is, on average, 1 hour long.

Our main focus is fundraising for extra things that the school and children need. For example, the Year 6 leavers hoodies are funded by the PTFA and prior to lockdown we purchased tablets for each class. We are currently fundraising to develop a new garden area in the school for children to be able to learn and relax within. We also organise events for the children like Summer fairs and discos, as well as social nights for the parents too. We discuss this and make plans while enjoying a nice hot drink and some cake!

We would love to see some new faces at our meetings. You can share your fundraising ideas or just sit back and enjoy a cuppa and see what it is we do. Our next meeting is at Lynton school on Thursday 28th April at 7pm. Hope to see you there.

## Diary Dates

4th - 8th April	Year 5/6 Residential
28th April	Parracombe Year 4 Forest School Starts
29th April	Lynton Yr1 Forest School Starts
3rd May	Kentisbury Rosemoor Visit
5th May	Lynton Reception, Yr1 & Yr2 Rosemoor Visit
17th May	Sports for Champion Athlete Visiting
24th May	Kentisbury & Parracombe Groups and Leavers Photos
25th May	Lynton Groups and Leavers Photos

## Community



**Lots of chocolatey prizes**

**Raffle**

**Tea & Coffee available**

Or

**Bring your own**

**Doors open at 6.30**

**Call preschool on 01598 753336 or see a staff member to book a table or buy raffle tickets**

Libraries  
Unlimited

HAF Activities

**Tuesday 12th April**  
10am - 2pm  
Crafts, stories and games - suitable for children 5-11

**Wednesday 13th April**  
10am - 2pm  
Really Wild Learning (reptile experience) and art activity.  
Suitable for children 5-11

**Thursday 14th April**  
10am - 2pm or 1pm - 5pm  
Brick Ideas Motorised Lego workshops plus activities  
Suitable for children 6-12

**Wednesday 20th April**  
10am - 2pm or 1pm - 5pm  
Sciencedipity fun science workshops plus activities.  
Suitable for children 7-11.  
Children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.  
Hot meal provided at each session.  
Activities and food free for children in receipt of benefit-related free school meals.

**BARNSTAPLE LIBRARY**  
Book at the library 01271 31870  
barnstaple.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk

## Easter Tennis Camps 2022



*Develop your child's tennis whilst having fun, making friends & playing games.  
Our dedicated, passionate & engaging coaches welcome all ages & abilities in great locations.*

**Junior Camp**  
5 - 14 yr olds | 10am - 1pm | £20 per day\*  
**Tiny Tots Camp**  
3 - 4 yr olds | 10 - 11am | £6 per day  
*\*For every full day purchased on our Junior Camp, bring a friend or sibling for free to either the Tiny Tots or the Junior Camp!*

**Easter**  
Wk 1 Mon 11th - Thurs 14th April Barnstaple & Braunton  
Wk 2 Tues 19th - Fri 22nd April Barnstaple & Braunton

**May Half Term**  
Mon 30th May - Wed 1st June Braunton & Barnstaple

**Summer Holidays**  
Wk 1 Mon 25th - Fri 29th July Barnstaple & Braunton  
Wk 2 Mon 1st - Fri 5th August Barnstaple & Braunton  
Wk 3 Mon 8th - Fri 12th August Barnstaple & Braunton  
Wk 4 Mon 15th - Fri 19th August Barnstaple

**Locations**  
Barnstaple Park Lane Tennis Club, Rock Park, EX32 9AH  
Braunton Braunton Tennis Club, Wrafton Road, EX33 2BP



**To book email: [bookings@devonshiretennisacademy.com](mailto:bookings@devonshiretennisacademy.com)**